

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Sze-Moey VOON, Thomas S. NEAL, Ameer KARIM and
Joel JACOBS

Title: **HOUSING HAVING A CABLE CONDUIT AND
RELATED SYSTEMS AND METHODS**

Serial No.: 10/800,235

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Examiner/Unit: Phuong T. Vu / 2841

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

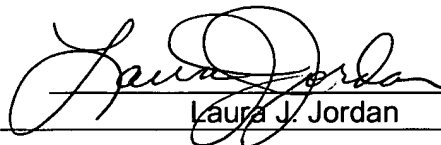
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Laura J. Jordan

**DECLARATION OF PRIOR INVENTION IN THE UNITED STATES PURSUANT TO
37 C.F.R. § 1.131 TO OVERCOME A CITED U.S. PATENT**

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This Declaration establishes the inventors' conception and reduction to
practice of the invention in the United States on a date before 21 August 2002, which
is the filing date of U.S. Patent 6,667,436 issued to Takami *et. al.*

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We, Sze-Moey Voon, Thomas S. Neal, Ameer Karim and Joel Jacobs, hereby declare the following:

1) We are the sole inventors of the invention described and claimed in U.S. Patent Application, Serial No. 10/800,235, which was filed on 12 March 2004. Before 21 August 2002, we had conceived of and reduced to practice in the United States a housing for an electronic system, an electronic system that includes the housing, and a computer system that includes the housing. Specifically, we had conceived of and reduced to practice a housing that had the features of claim 1, as originally filed and now amended. This housing, which we had conceived of and reduced to practice before 21 August 2002, included an opening operable to hold an interface; and a passage having a first opening adjacent to the opening, having a second opening and a third opening, the passage being operable to hold a communication medium that extends between the first opening and the second or third openings. Likewise, before 21 August 2002, we had conceived of and reduced to practice an electronic system as recited in claim 13 as originally filed and now amended, a computer system as recited in claim 15 as originally filed and now amended, and a method for coupling an external device to an interface of an electronic system as recited in claim 16 as originally filed and now amended.

2) Exhibit 1 is a copy of a photograph of an embodiment of the invention that is described and claimed in the present patent application. The photographed embodiment was made before 21 August 2002. Exhibit 1 is similar to FIG. 2 (Exhibit 2) of the patent application, and, like FIG. 2, shows an external peripheral device connected to an electronic system via a communication medium that extends through a passage of the system's housing.

3) Exhibit 3 is a copy of a photograph of another embodiment of the invention that is described and claimed in the present patent application. The photographed embodiment was made before 21 August 2002. Exhibit 3 is similar to FIG. 3 (Exhibit 4) of the patent application, and, like FIG. 3, shows a portion of a housing that includes a passage having a third opening.

4) Exhibits 1 and 3 show expressly or inherently each and every element of claim 1 as originally filed and now amended. Exhibit 1 expressly shows a housing (34 in Exhibit 2) comprising an opening (53 in Exhibit 2) operable to hold an interface (41 in Exhibit 2), and a passage (32 in Exhibits 2 and 4) having a first opening (46 in Exhibit 2) adjacent to the opening (53), the passage (32) being operable to hold a communication medium (38a and 38b in Exhibit 2). Exhibit 1 inherently shows a second opening (48 in Exhibit 1) and also expressly shows the communication medium (38b) extending between the first opening (46) and the second opening (48). Exhibit 3 expressly shows a portion of the housing (34) comprising a third opening (50 in Exhibits 2 and 4). Exhibit 3 inherently shows the passage (32), the first opening (53), the second opening (48) and a communication medium (38a in Exhibit 2) that can extend between the first opening (53) and, the second opening (48) or third opening (50).

5) In a manner similar to that discussed in paragraph 4 above, Exhibits 1 and 3 show each and every element of claims 13, 15 and 16 as originally filed and now amended.

6) Per MPEP § 715.09, we are seasonably submitting this Declaration before receiving a final rejection of the patent application.

7) We further declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true; that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like, if so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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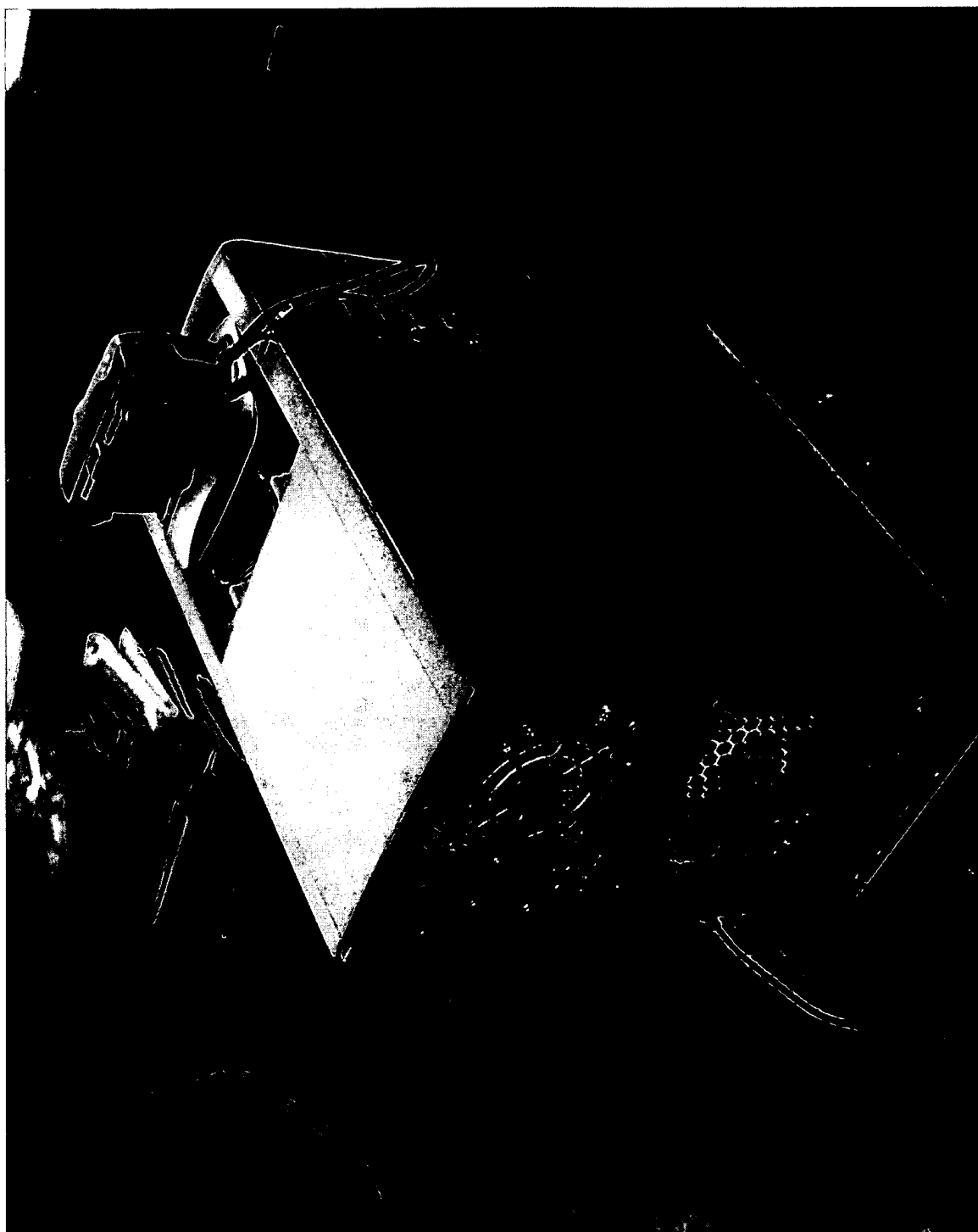


EXHIBIT 1

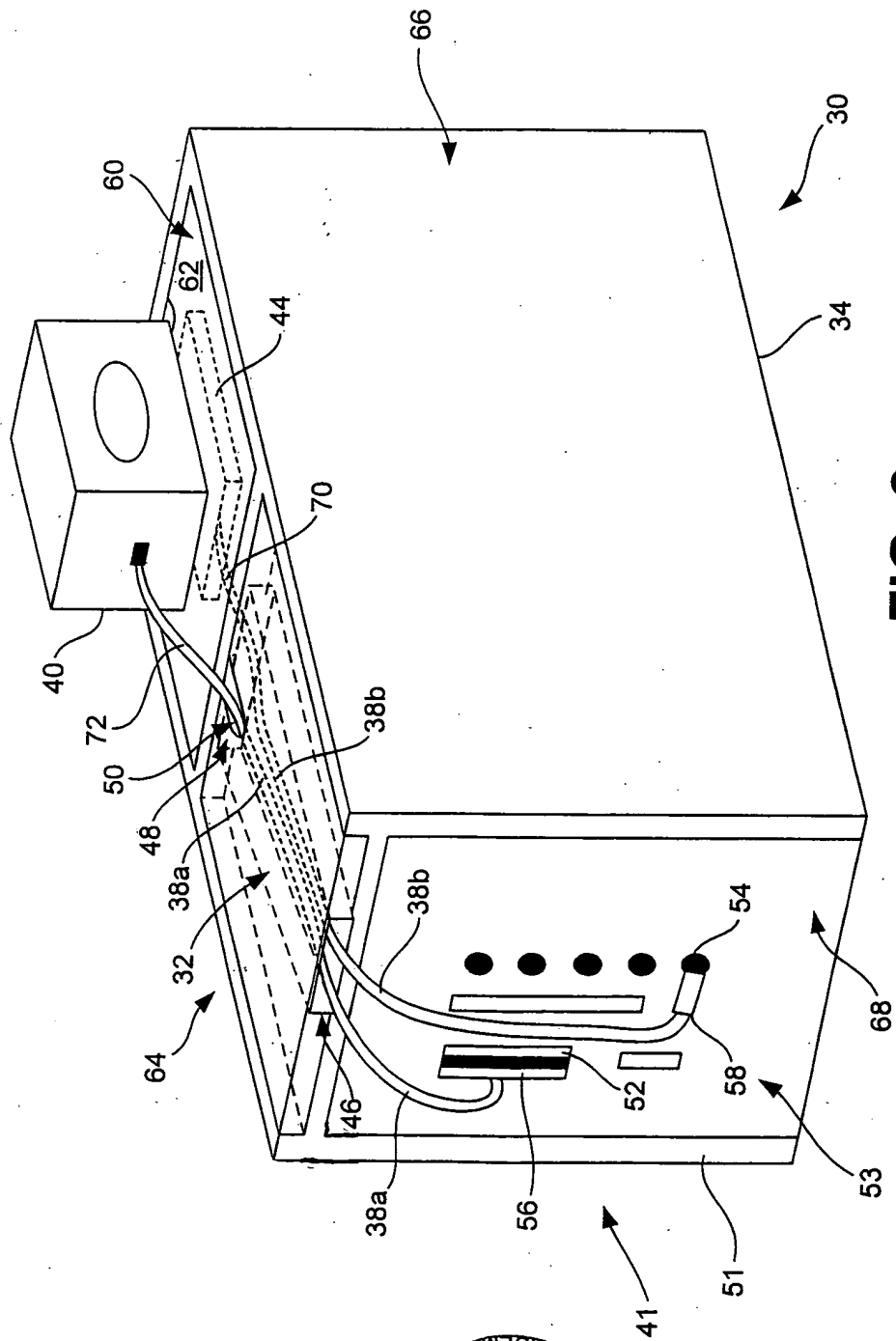
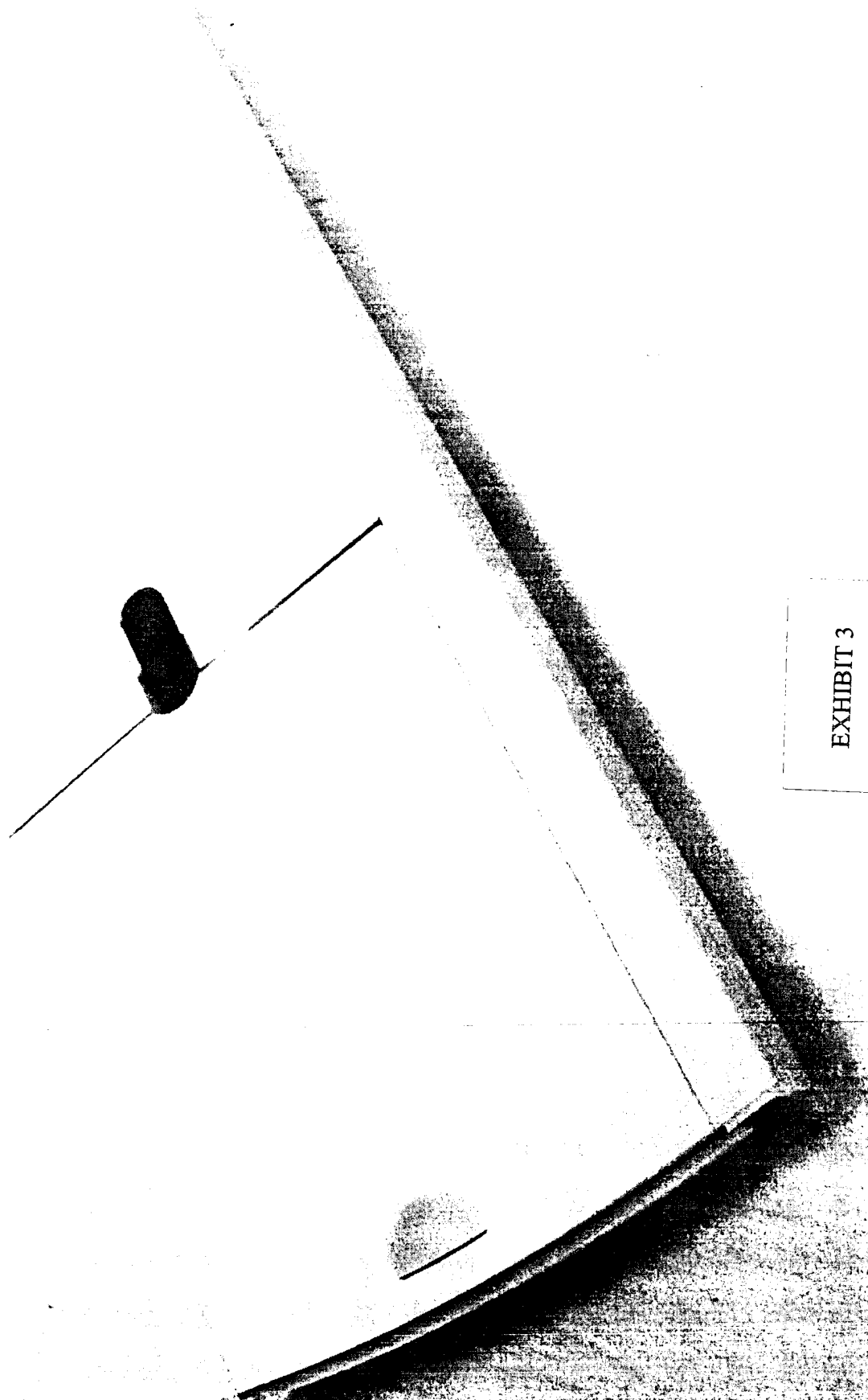


FIG. 2



EXHIBIT 3



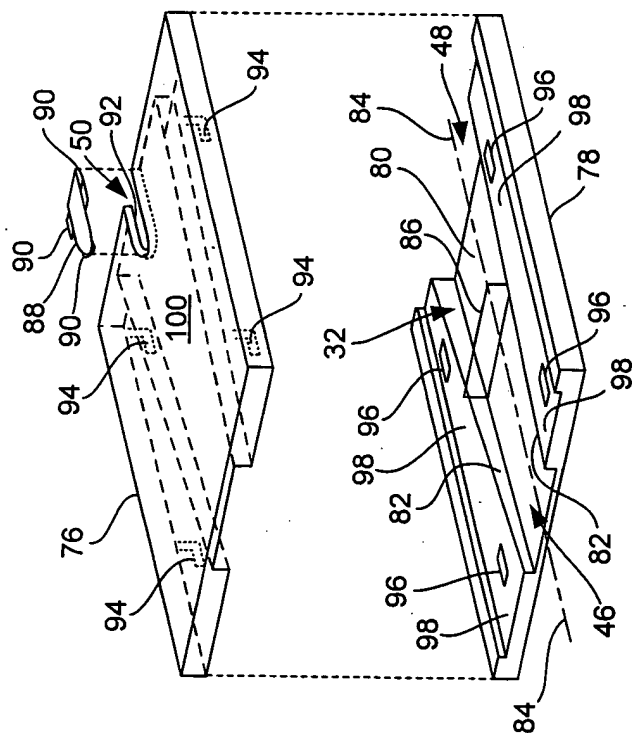
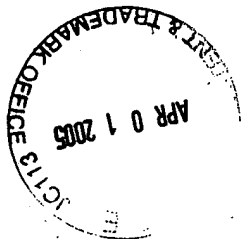


FIG. 3

EXHIBIT 4



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